United Nations A/72/695

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 January 2018
English
Original: Russian

Seventy-second session
Agenda item 70 (a)
Elimination of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Letter dated 15 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a declaration on preventing and suppressing the destruction and desecration of monuments and sites commemorating the courage and heroism of those who died in the fight against Nazism and fascism during the Second World War, adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the following States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States: the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 70 (a).

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Declaration on preventing and suppressing the destruction and desecration of monuments and sites commemorating the courage and heroism of those who died in the fight against Nazism and fascism during the Second World War

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, who have adopted this Declaration,

Guided by the annual resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, entitled "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance",

Bearing in mind the general understanding of the importance of commemorating the courage and heroism of the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945,

Remembering the horrors of the Second World War that resulted from the criminal ideologies of Nazism,

Conscious of our responsibility to preserve historical memory and raise awareness, particularly among the younger generation, of the suffering of the victims of Nazism and fascism, and also with a view to the impartial assessment of history,

Noting with deep concern and alarm the increase in tension and confrontation around the world and the continued increase, in a number of States, of cases of intolerance, discrimination and extremist violence,

Strongly condemn any actions involving the destruction or desecration of monuments, symbols or sites commemorating the heroism of those who fought against Nazism and fascism during the Great Patriotic War of 1941–1945, and also the illegal exhumation or transfer of their remains,

Believe that detailed and honest study of the historical truth about the Second World War, which brought the world unprecedented suffering and devastation, contributes to reconciliation between peoples and nations,

Categorically reject the concerted efforts under way, which run counter to the judgment of the Nuremberg Tribunal, to falsify and rewrite history, to distort and revise the outcome of the Second World War, and to glorify Nazism and militant nationalism,

Share the pain and indignation felt by the citizens of our countries at the reports of the steps being taken at various levels to dismantle places of remembrance and memorials that commemorate erstwhile brothers in arms who demonstrated self-sacrifice and heroism in the fight against Nazism and fascism,

Believe that such efforts insult the memory of the millions of Soviet citizens who fought against the plague of fascism and inflict moral damage on their descendants,

Resolve to continue to take joint steps, based on strict compliance with international law, to establish a firm shield against neo-Nazism, extremism and xenophobia and to strengthen inter-ethnic and intercultural harmony,

Call upon Governments, non-governmental and international organizations, public institutions and the media to strengthen their efforts to disseminate objective information on the crimes of Nazism and the need for continued decisive measures to combat the growth of intolerance on racial, national, religious or other grounds.